

Boston, Massachusetts, Wed. Evening
Decr. 15, 1847.

My dear Mr. Estlin,

It is a rare thing that I get an hour, day or evening, quite to myself, my own family & my own affairs. Accustomed to a very regular, uniform, & for the most part quiet, life in the Country, for the past 13 or 14 years, the 'never-ending, still-beginning' occupations of my present office, the precise duties of which no mortal man could exactly define & describe (it seems to me), consume nearly all my waking moments, and send me ^{generally} pretty weary to my bed at night. But there is this compensation - a double one - I know not that I ever enjoyed better health, and my mind has no tendency to prey upon itself. I am sometimes discouraged, to be sure, at the stubborn & stony soil we have to cultivate, in the Antislavery field - it can't be called a vineyard yet, by any means. For example - last Saturday, after having been pretty industrious (dear Sir, let me say, I am talking to you, as to an old friend, who will pardon a little egotism, & not look upon it as boasting, and who will not expose the weakness, if it be one, which leads me to tell things as they are) - after, then, a busy week, I went last Sat. P.M. to South Hingham. It is a small & very pretty sea-board town, about 14 ms. South of Boston - city of 3000 inhabitants.

scattered over a territory 6 ms. long by 3 broad.
I went by Steamboat to Hb., and thence by car-
riage, nearly 4 ms. to S. Hb., where it settled
in the ministry, over an Unit.ⁿ Society, an old
College friend, and a very uncompromising
Abolitionist, Rev. John L. Russell. With him
I had engaged to spend the Sunday, and to
deliver my Anti-Slavery Message to his people, &c.
~~and~~ Accordingly I did so, to an audience of 150 or
200 people (for the Society is not large), showing
the idolatry of the American people, ^{as shown} in their
estimate of the National Union, in their readiness
to sacrifice principle and honor to its main-
tenance, in their exaltation of it, ~~and~~ and of
the Constitution which is its Bond of Union, with
all its "solemn guarantees to Slavery", above
the commands of God, above all justice, truth
and righteousness, &c. &c. In the evening
another meeting was held in a commodious
school house, which was filled, and I spoke
extemporaneously about 2 hours; after which
remarks were made by others, inquiries, objections,
&c. &c. - Some in a very free, & not very civil,
vein, but generally respectful & appropriate -
so that we did not leave the house till past 11 o'clk.
P.M. - It is not often that I have such a hard
day as that. On the next morning, I returned to
the City. Since which I have been mainly
occupied with preparations for the approaching
Bazaar. - Are you sharing the anxiety we are
feeling about the Bristol Box? not an

anxiety as to its safety, but as to whether
we shall receive it in season for the Fair!
How unfortunate, & what a grievous disappoint-
ment to you all, as well as to us, it will be,
if it does not come to hand. We heard,
some time since, of its shipment at Liverpool
in the Ship North Bend - which vessel, we
learn, was obliged to put back into Cork
for repairs, and was detained so long that,
unless she has a remarkably good passage,
she cannot arrive in season for us! The
Bridgewater box is here, in a vessel just
arrived, - so I am told. Another box, from
St. Petersburg is also ~~in the box~~ arrived, but
has not got through the Custom House. One
from Paris has arrived at New York. And yes-
terday I had the pleasure of receiving from
the C. House, & lodging safely in a room,
appertaining to Faneuil Hall (in the same
building) ten cases received by St. Britannia
last week. They were, 1 very large case from
Edinburgh, 1 do do from Perth, 2 large ones from
Glasgow, 1 do from Dublin & Belfast, 1 do from
Coventry, 2 do from Manchester ^(I think), 2 smaller ones
from Rochdale. I was told, today, that a
2^d box from Bristol was on the way. Yesterday,
I had the pleasure of commencing the work
of opening the cases. A strong corps of ladies
attended to unpack, unfold, view & admire

the articles, as in rich & almost endless succession they were brought forth from the boxes. I wish all the British & Irish Abolitionists could be present to view the beautiful array of their presents, when thus brought together. The pleasure none of them enjoy - as we do - viz. that of seeing all the gifts united. The Bazaar this year will be - must be - exceedingly rich & splendid. All this day, again, the ladies (ten or a dozen) have been unpacking, &c. and marking prices; and again, tomorrow, the whole day probably will be occupied in same manner. On Friday a.m. we assemble to prepare the Hall, viz. to put up evergreen arches and other trimmings of decorations, to lay & arrange the tables, &c. This will be a work of not less than 3 days, with all the help we can muster.

I put a slip of paper in one of your Liberators by last Steamship, saying that the "Reply" to the Boston invitation came safely to hand. It has been published in the "Ch. World" with the names of the Ministers - in the "Register", without any names (I believe), and will be in this week's "Liberator", as it was in the "World", with a few comments of my own. Chiefly in reply to some remarks of the Ed. of the World. The Reply has received a sneering, & really vile, notice in the Chr. Reg.^r. A copy of this latter paper I intend sending to Mr. Armstrong. I wish you would get his opinion of it, without appearing to know any thing of it yourself. I am curious to know

2
what he will think of the article, & especially of that
part where the writer ~~attempts to~~ sneers at the
humble occupations of some of the signers - a
proceeding so decorous in a professed Xⁿ. minister!
and so peculiarly appropriate to an Unitarian
minister!! so much in harmony with Ameri-
can professions!!! and in such good taste
for any one, who claims to be a gentleman!
The writer is Rev. George B. Ellis, Successor of Rev.
Dr. Walker at Charlestown, near Boston! This
article will receive a keen criticism from
Mr. Quincy, I ~~am~~ will promise you; and the
gentleman himself a well-deserved
flagellation. I have heard several ^{persons} remarks
that nothing, probably, could better show &
prove, to you English folk, the bitter pro-slavery
virus of many of our men than this very
article. I wish its ^{showing} ~~setting~~ up could come
this week, as it might go out in tomorrow's
Steamer in connection with the Register. I say,
it might go; for it is not certain that the
Lib^r. of this week will be ready tomorrow. It is
usually put to press early Thursday morning;
and I hope it will be tomorrow. —

Whether any farther notice, in a public
way, will be taken of the "Reply", I cannot say.
It is now suspended in the Office of the Gen. Sec. of
A. A. A. - near of Crosby & Nichols's Bookstore - where
very many, perforce, will see it. I must say I
never saw a more beautiful specimen of pen-
manship in my life, and have sent many to

see it for that reason, as well as for itself. - I intend to obtain it, and suspend it in Faneuil Hall, during the Fair. - I wish to say that F. E. Ellis makes ~~a~~ ^a mis-statement respecting the nomination of Dr. Whittidge & S. C. as Vice-pres^{ts} of the A. U. A. He says Mr. Briggs (Sec. of A. U. A.) nominated him. Rev. J. F. Clarke, some time since, told me that Mr. Briggs told him he did not know how Dr. W.'s name got upon the nomination list; he, Mr. Briggs, did not put it there! Mr. Ellis's pleasantry, on that point, is quite wasted. There are other untrue statements in the piece, which, at this moment, I do not recall.

I also mentioned that the £1., by Mr. Hinch, was received, & appropriated according to your directions.

Mr. H. keeps himself very quiet. I have not seen him for many weeks. He is about, - so one of the daily papers has unofficially announced giving a Botanical Course of Lect^{rs} in Boston. I shall attend them, if he does. I am sorry not to see him oftener. He may have an object in keeping himself so still. The last time I met him was in Cornhill, just opposite to the Anti-Slavery Office. I pointed it out to him, and begged him to call and see me there, any time he might be in the city. That was before my family came to the city, and they have been here 4 weeks. He has not called.

My ~~former~~ interest in the "Inquirer" has so much abated - there is comparatively so little spirit and point in the paper - and

it is received in this country so irregularly
withal, that I have determined to discontinue
my subscription to it, from & after the New Year.
I shall look to you & Mr. Haughton to send me
an occasional no., when any thing of special
interest on the Antislavery question occurs. I
have not given much attention to the articles
of Amicus. Time has been wanting, in the
1st place; and inclination hasn't abounded,
in the 2^d. The little that I have seen of them
presents the writer in the same attitude of appa-
rent perfect satisfaction with his own position, &
his confident statement, as facts, of things which I have
no reason to believe to be facts, &c.; and I have
no expectation of any good accruing from his
literary labour. But I shall rejoice if it prove
otherwise.

I have not yet seen a copy of J. Martineau's
letter to Mr. James, of which you recently made mention.
- I did see Mr. Taggart's letter to you, in reply to your
letter in the "Inquirer", though something leads you to
doubt whether I had. Perhaps I made no special
mention of it. I intended to have spoken of it; but
it made certainly no great impression on my mind.
I thought it lame & small.

I hope you will receive efficient aid in printing
the French edition of Douglass. I am surprised that an
edition of 500 should require an advance of £25. Printing
& book-making, ^{I supposed} are cheap in France, compared with Eng.
The same no. could be well got up here for about \$60, I doubt
not.

* I thought I had the means, at our office, of filling the blank exactly, but find I have not.

For instance, W. W. Brown is about having his Narrative stereotyped. It is a book of the size of D.'s Narrative. This is to cost him - i.e. the stereotype plates - \$45 to \$50. An edition of 3000 copies, common type, unbound, cost him \$* - besides \$30. for the engravings of likenesses, and a moderate sum for binding.

"To the cautious (timid?) Mr. Aspland, you see to be retarding the A.S. Cause in your own country" - you say. This is good evidence to me, & sufficient, that you have struck the right chord. It is when the evil spirit finds that he is about to be driven out, that he howls. He will compliment you on your efficiency, so long as you ^{will let him stay,} ~~will not disturb him.~~ Mr. A. ought to see through all this vaporing & scolding, and have nerve to bear it, - if he ~~is~~ has a public journal to conduct, especially.

Mr. Garrison is slowly - quite slowly - recovering strength. As yet he has done nothing for the Liberator, but intends to commence, without more delay. He came within a very little, apparently, of a relapse about 3 weeks since. Violent pains in the head, with fever, returned; and we were much alarmed for 3 or 4 days; - since which he has been picking up flesh, &c. faster than before. - I showed him what you wrote about his Constitutional tendencies, and his liability to mental disorder. This I did after consulting a mutual friend, in whose cool judgment I had confidence. I wish he would be more careful than he is.

F. Douglass has issued the 1st no. of his paper - the "North Star" - from Rochester. It is a handsome sheet, of the size of the "Liberator." He has a Mr. Dick, an Englishman, for his printer; I have been told, a son of Thomas Dick, the writer, philosopher, &c.

3/ The 1st No. of the "Massachusetts Quarterly Review" has appeared - edited by Theo. Parker, R. W. Emerson, &c. Its leading article, by Thos. Parker, on the Mexican War, is said to be admirable. I have not ~~seen~~ been able to read it yet, for want of time.

I had intended to write a few lines to Mr. Armstrong under this cover - but must not attempt it. I am very sorry he felt so bad about the publication of the "Reply" in advance. I do not think it ~~occasioned~~ ^{caused} any detriment to its reception afterwards. I blame myself in a measure for not suppressing it. It passed under my eye, in reading the proof of the paper, and I thought your Bristol friends would not be pleased. Yet I felt myself hardly authorised to strike it out. (As I have mentioned that I usually read the proof of the Liberator, I feel impelled to add that ^{the} many typographical errors, which sometimes appear in it, are not chargeable to me - the printer is, rather an indolent, easy man, as to work, - and to correct errors in the proof is not ^{always} a sure way to have them corrected in the print.)

MS B.1.6 v.2, p.63
You say there are 54 ministers' names on your "reply." I count 62. I wish, with you, the Reply had been, (or ~~could~~ have been, with propriety), addressed to some Association, from whom some public action upon it would naturally have been looked for. This has been a fault of our Transatlantic Communications; and I shouldn't

wonder if the experience, some of our Boston brethren have had of the advantage of this method of address, in enabling them to get rid of any official ^{or public} notice of a document so sent, should have had something to do with making their Invitation so wholly irresponsible. I am sorry, & surprised too I confess, that Dr. Hutton should have made the exceptions he did to the Reply. It seems to me that when we understand what is implied in Christian Fellowship, and how necessary it is that there should be no lowering of the moral & religious standard, if we would do anything really to advance a religion "pure & undefiled" in the world, we shall no more desire the Religious Coöperation, or admit the Christian character, of a slaveholder, than of highway robbers, burglars, horse-thieves, profligates, counterfeiters. And if their position is ~~not a~~ ^{not a} Christian one, we do them a great & positive ^{harm &} ~~wrong~~ by leading them to think it is; as we inevitably do, when we give them to perceive that their slaveholding is no bar whatever to our fraternization, religious communion and coöperation. Our duty to them, as friends, as brethren in the great family, is not to

suffer this dreadful sin to rest upon them. And we disarm ourselves of the most efficient argument to turn them from their sin, when we let them see that, after all, we don't regard it as much of a sin, certainly nothing in the way of the best Chr^d. Character, and nothing more than we sh^d. probably do ourselves, in like position.

The real question after all is, Is it Christian to be a Slaveholder? If it is, say so, and act accordingly! If it is not, for God's sake, and still more for the slave's, and most of all for the Slaveholders, do not cover up that great truth. Speak that out, with a Christian manliness and plainness, and see that you do not speak it in malice, nor in contempt. Will not Dr. Hutton, Dr. Beard, & others see this?

I communicated to Ed. of "Natl. A.S. Standard" what you said of the irregularity of its reception - and I trust you will find the thing rectified. If not, give me another hint, and I will ~~be~~ ~~more so~~ try again.

In your last to me, you say, "Mr. Armstrong

wishes to know if the answer to the Irish
Address, that was so long delayed, was from
a body or Committee, or merely from the
individual subscribers? "

Ans. It was from a Committee, appointed
at a meeting (respectable for numbers & character)
of Unitarian Ministers in May 1846. I had
brought the matter before the A. U. A. - got a
vote appointing a Committee to reply to the Irish Address,
on behalf of the A. U. A. This was afterwards
upset by Dr. Parkman & Geo. E. Ellis, on the
ground that the Irish Address was not specifically
addressed to the A. U. A. Six weeks after.

Dr. Parkman advocated sending a Reply, to the
English Peace Address, from the Association of
Alumni of the Divinity School, though the Address
was not sent to them, nor to any body in particular.

All this matter I explained fully in a
letter to the N. A. S. Standard some time last
Summer; in July or August, I think. Did you
not see that paper? The Reply, which at
last went to Dublin, was written by Rev. George
W. Briggs of Plymouth, Mass.; it received a
few corrections & additions from other members
of Committee.

My sincere respects to your Daughter
Kindest remembrance to Messrs. Armstrong & James, and to
all the Carpenter family. Many blessings will be yours, if on
wishes & prayers avail, for your hearty & untiring efforts in our behalf.
Ever Yours, Dear Sir, Saml. May